

MONTANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION SECTION

HELENA, MONTANA

Job Completion Report
Development Project

State of Montana

Name Central Montana Fishery Study

Project No. F-24-D-16

Title Statewide Lake and Stream Rehabilitation
Sutherlin Reservoir

Period Covered: October 1, 1958 to April 30, 1959

ABSTRACT:

On October 7, 1958, Sutherlin Reservoir in Meagher County, was treated with thirty gallons of rotenone emulsives. Because of repair work which was necessary on the fill, the reservoir had been drawn down to approximately ninety acre feet. Common suckers (*Catostomus* sp.) were the principal species killed. Efforts will be made to establish a fishable population by plantings of rainbow trout fingerlings.

OBJECTIVES:

To remove or decimate as completely as possible the existing fish population from Sutherlin Reservoir, Meagher County, Montana. Because of construction work done on the fill by the Montana State WaterBoard the reservoir was drawn down to an exceptionally low level. As soon as the water is considered free of toxicant, efforts will be made to establish a fishable population of rainbow trout.

TECHNIQUES USED:

On October 7, 1958, Sutherlin Reservoir was treated with thirty gallons of rotenone emulsives.

The emulsion was pumped with a hand pump from the supply barrels to supply tanks mounted in a seventeen foot boat.

Application was accomplished by pumping water from the stern of the boat with a motor driven unit and adding toxicant into the suction side of the pump.

FINDINGS:

Sutherlin Reservoir was drawn to a low of approximately 100 acre feet in order to accomplish construction work on the fill.

The project documents were written in the early part of October, 1958. An attempt was made to coordinate the actual rehabilitation work and to accomplish the objectives of the documents after the probable effective date of the project. It developed that this was not possible in this instance. The lake was drawn to a low level and the toxicant applied before the effective date of the project. Waiting would have increased the cost because treatment of more water would have been necessary.

Suckers (Catostomus sp.) were the predominant species killed. Rainbow trout (Salmo gairdnerii) and Kokanee (Oncorhynchus nerka) were the game species killed. Sculpins, and other small fish common to the drainage were observed.

Efforts will be made to establish a fishable population by planting of rainbow trout fingerlings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

DATA AND REPORTS:

The original data and reports are in the fisheries office of the Fish and Game District Headquarters in Great Falls.

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Date: July 28, 1959